



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/774,727	01/31/2001	Martha L. Lyons	10007376-1	6080

7590 07/24/2003  
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

CORRIELUS, JEAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2172

6

DATE MAILED: 07/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>		<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/774,727		LYONS, MARTHA L	
	<b>Examiner</b>		<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jean M Corrielus		2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

Art Unit: 2172:

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to the application filed on May 30, 2003, in which claims 1-20 are pending for further examination.

### ***Drawings***

2. Applicants are required to furnish the formal drawings in response this office action. No new matter may be introduced in the required drawing. Failure to timely submit a drawing will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed May 30, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. (See examiner's remark section).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

Art Unit: 2172:

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lang US Patent application Publication no. US/2002/0046041 .

As to claim 1, Lang discloses an automated system for providing reputation and trust information ([0002]). In particular, Lang discloses the claimed limitation “a database for storing said reputation information” wherein the database (36) holds reputation information that a client seeks to access from the reputation service (10) ([0006], [0025]-[0027]); “security measures for verifying identities of at least one of said user and a plurality of community organizations” often it is necessary to determine whether the requester is authorized to access the requested information, wherein if the reputation information is particularly sensitive, only selected parties may be able to access this information, wherein the authorization may require that the requesting that the requester provide the user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0042]-[0043]); and “a communication system for receiving said reputation information and transmitting said reputation information to said plurality of community organizations responsive to an authorization received by said user” wherein if the reputation information is particularly sensitive, only selected parties may be able to access this information, wherein the authorization may require that the requesting that the requester provide the user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0042]-[0043])[0024][0028].

Art Unit: 2172:

As to claim 2, Lang discloses the claimed “information related to activities of said user”[0031]; “information related to qualification of said user” ([0031]-[0035]); and “information related to reliability of said user” ([0031]-[0035]).

As to claim 3, Lang discloses the claimed “a certification engine for authenticity of said transmitted reputation information”([0041]-[0043]).

As to claim 4, Lang discloses the claimed limitations “a reputation information classifier for grouping pieces of said reputation information into predetermined categories related to activities conducted with said plurality of communication organizations”([0031]; [0032]; [0034] and [0038]-[0039]).

As to claim 5, Lang discloses the claimed limitation “wherein said plurality of community organizations received said reputation information in categories related to said activities conducted on said plurality of community organizations”([0031]; [0039]).

As to claim 6, Lang discloses the claimed “wherein said user authorization is provided by said user to said plurality of community organization for receiving said reputation information from said reputation authority”([0035]; [0039]; [0043]).

Art Unit: 2172:

As to claim 7, Lang discloses the claimed “wherein said user authorizes said reputation authority to transmit said reputation to said plurality of community organizations”([0041]-[0043]).

As to claim 8, Lang discloses the claimed “wherein at least one of said user and said plurality of community organizations subscribes to said reputation authority in order to participate in said electronically storing reputation information”([0044]-[0045] and [0050]-[0052]).

As to claim 9, Lang discloses the claimed “verifying an identity of one of an associated user and an accessing third party responsive to a request to access said centralized repository”often it is necessary to determine whether the requester is authorized to access the requested information, wherein if the reputation information is particularly sensitive, only selected parties may be able to access this information, wherein the authorization may require that the requesting that the requester provide the user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0041]-[0043]); “receiving said identity attributes from at least one of said verified associated user and said verified accessing third party”[0043]; “storing said identity attribute in a database indexed according to said verified associated user” ([0030]) and “delivering at least one set of said identity attributes to said verified third party responsive to an authorization received from said verified associated user” wherein if the reputation information is particularly sensitive, only selected parties may be able to access this information, wherein the authorization may require that the requesting that the requester provide the

Art Unit: 2172:

user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0042]-[0043])[0024][0028]. Applicant should duly note that Lang discloses a name field to identify the name of the party as well as an identification that uniquely identifies the party amongst the parties for which reputation data is held by the reputation service, the third party is, therefore, incorporated.

As to claim 10, Lang discloses the claimed “categorizing said identity attribute into sets related to activities of said accessing third party”[0037]-[0039].

As to claim 11, Lang discloses the claimed “wherein said at least one set comprises said sets related to activities of said accessing third party”[0032]-[0039].

As to claim 12, Lang discloses the claimed “processing a request for said at least one set of identity attributes from said accessing third party, wherein said associated user provides said authorization to said accessing third party”[0042]-[0043].

As to claim 13, Lang discloses the claimed “updating said stored identity attributes from at least one of said associated user and said accessing third party” and “certifying said at least one set of said identity attributes”[0047].

Art Unit: 2172:

As to claim 14, Lang discloses the claimed “registering at least at least one of said associated user and said accessing third party with said centralized repository of identity attributes for receiving prior to said verifying step”[0042].

As to claim 15, Lang discloses the claimed “means for verifying an identity of one of a plurality of users and a plurality of participating user community responsive to a request to access said clearinghouse”[0041]-[0042]; “means for storing reliability data from one of said verified plurality of users and said verified plurality of participating user community”([0029]-[0035];[0043]); “means for associating said stored reliability data with an associated user”([0030]; [0031]; [0043] ); and “means releasing selected reliability data to one of said verified plurality of participating user community responsive to consent giving by said associated user” wherein if the reputation information is particularly sensitive, only selected parties may be able to access this information, wherein the authorization may require that the requesting that the requester provide the user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0042]-[0043])[0024][0028].

As to claim 16, Lang discloses the claimed “means for updating said stored reliability data from at least one of said plurality of users and said plurality of participating user communities”([0023], [0047]).



Art Unit: 2172:

As to claim 17, Lang discloses the claimed “means for classifying said reliability data into groups related to activities of said plurality of participating user communities”[0031]-[0039].

As to claim 18, Lang discloses the claimed “wherein said selected reliability data comprises said groups related to activities of said plurality of participating user communities”. [0031]-[0039].

As to claim 19, Lang discloses the claimed “means for processing request for said selected reliability data from said plurality of participating user communities, wherein said verified one of said plurality of users provides said consent to said plurality of participating user communities”[0042]-[0044].

As to claim 20, Lang discloses the claimed “means for processing a request to deliver said selected reliability data from said verified one of said plurality of users, wherein said verified one of said plurality of users provides said consent to said reputation management clearinghouse”[0043]-[0046].

***Remark***

The examiner will address the issues raised by the Applicant in the order in which they appear in the arguments section.

In order for one of ordinary skill in the art to capture the essence of the invention as broadly and vaguely claimed, a great deal of explanation should be provided to the ordinary skilled artisan, as the Applicant has attempted to do in the present arguments section, for it is clear

Art Unit: 2172:

that the claims are NOT SELF SUFFICIENT. The Examiner kindly points out that claims 1-20 as broadly written, is rendered unpatentable in light of the teachings of Lang, and in compliance with the requirement of *35 U.S.C. § 102*.

(A). Applicants asserted that Lang does not teach or even suggest let alone mention “a verification of the identities of at least one of said user and a plurality of community organizations”. In response to the preceding assertion, the examiner is kindly submitted that the applicant misreads the applied references, and the analysis therefore is inaccurate. However, when read and analyzed in light of the specification, the invention as claimed does not support applicant’s arguments. Applicant are reminded that 37 CFR § 1.111(b) states, a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section. Applicant should duly note, Land states that it is necessary to determine whether the requester is authorized to access the requested information, wherein if the reputation information is particularly sensitive, only selected parties may be able to access this information, wherein the authorization may require that the requesting that the requester provide the user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0042]-[0043]). Therefore, aforementioned assertion is moot.

(B). Applicant asserted that Lang does not suggest anywhere the transmission of the reputation information to an authorization received by the user. In response to the preceding assertion, the

Art Unit: 2172:

examiner is kindly submitted that the applicant misreads the applied references, and the analysis therefore is inaccurate. It respectfully submitted that Lang discloses an automated system for providing reputation and trust information ([0002]). In particular, Lang discloses the claimed limitation “a database for storing said reputation information” wherein the database (36) holds reputation information that a client seeks to access from the reputation service (10) ([0006], [0025]-[0027]); “security measures for verifying identities of at least one of said user and a plurality of community organizations” often it is necessary to determine whether the requester is authorized to access the requested information, wherein if the reputation information is particularly sensitive, only selected parties may be able to access this information, wherein the authorization may require that the requesting that the requester provide the user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0042]-[0043]); and “a communication system for receiving said reputation information and transmitting said reputation information to said plurality of community organizations responsive to an authorization received by said user” wherein if the reputation information is particularly sensitive, only selected parties may be able to access this information, wherein the authorization may require that the requesting that the requester provide the user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0042]-[0043])[0024][0028]. The applicant is reminded that the examiner is entitled to the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claims. The Applicant always has the opportunity to amend the claims during prosecution and broad interpretation

Art Unit: 2172:

by the examiner reduces the possibility that the claim, once issued, will be interpreted more broadly than is justified. In re Prater 162 USPQ 541, 550-51 (CCPA 1969). Lang discloses the invention as claimed in claims 1-8. Hence the 35 U.S.C 102 is hereby sustained.

(C). Applicant asserted that as with the Examiner's cited support for the rejection of claim 1, nowhere in paragraph 0032 does Lang disclose a method for verifying the identity of the associated user and accessing third party attempting to get into the repository or requesting access to the repository. In response to the preceding assertion, the examiner is kindly submitted that the applicant misreads the applied references, and the analysis therefore is inaccurate. It respectfully submitted that Lang discloses an automated system for providing reputation and trust information ([0002]). It is noted, however, applicant is interpreting the claims very narrow without considering the broad teaching of the references used in the rejection. Applicant should duly note that Lang discloses a name field to identify the name of the party as well as an identification that uniquely identifies the party amongst the parties for which reputation data is held by the reputation service. Lang has stated that it is necessary to determine whether the requester is authorized to access the requested information, wherein if the reputation information is particularly sensitive, only selected parties may be able to access this information, wherein the authorization may require that the requesting that the requester provide the user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0041]-[0043]). This implication discloses the recited "verifying the identity of the associated user and accessing third

Art Unit: 2172:

party attempting to get into the repository or requesting access to the repository” as asserted by the applicant.

(D). Applicant contended that Lang does not teach or suggest a similar authorization or verification procedure for a plurality of users as taught in claim 1. In response to the preceding contention, the examiner kindly submits that the applicant misread the applied reference used in the rejection, and the analysis therefore is inaccurate. The claims do not capture the essence of the invention as argued in applicant's remarks page 9. Actually, applicants is interpreting the claims very narrow without considering the broad teaching of the references used in the rejection. The examiner rejected the claim language as states:

Lang discloses the following:

- (i) “means for verifying an identity of one of a plurality of users and a plurality of participating user community responsive to a request to access said clearinghouse”[0041]-[0042];
- (ii) “means for storing reliability data from one of said verified plurality of users and said verified plurality of participating user community”([0029]-[0035];[0043]);
- (iii) “means for associating said stored reliability data with an associated user”([0030]; [0031]; [0043] ); and
- (iv) “means releasing selected reliability data to one of said verified plurality of participating user community responsive to consent giving by said associated user” wherein if the reputation information is particularly sensitive, only selected parties may be able to access this information,

Art Unit: 2172:

wherein the authorization may require that the requesting that the requester provide the user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0042]-[0043])[0024][0028]. Therefore, the aforementioned contention is moot.

### *Conclusion*

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or early communication from the Examiner should be directed to **Jean M. Corrielus** whose telephone number is (703) 306-3035. The Examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday from 7:00am to 5:30pm.

Serial Number: 09/774,727:

Page 14

Art Unit: 2172:

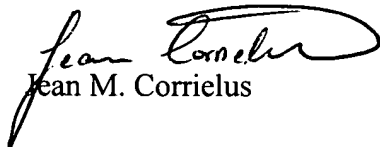
If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu, can be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at (703)305-4393.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:** Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:** (703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**Or:** (703)305-9731 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT") Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

  
Jean M. Corrielus  
Patent Examiner

July 22, 2003